



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2002

Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

Broad community support for blueprint on growth, transportation, affordable housing...

COUNCIL APPROVES POTOMAC MASTER PLAN

The Montgomery County Council today gave final approval to the County's Master Plan for the Potomac Sub-Region, which includes the communities of Potomac, Darnestown, and North Potomac.

The County Council works with the Planning Board to revise the Master Plans in each area of the county about every ten years, with the revisions being a blueprint for land use decisions on transportation, parks and recreation, protection of water resources, and housing.

"This Master Plan is good for Potomac and it's good for the County," said Councilmember Howard Denis. "It protects our most important water resource – the Potomac River. It preserves open space. And it soundly rejects road widenings that would have only made congestion worse – as well as the so-called 'Techway,' which would steamroller hundreds of homes and do next-to-nothing to address traffic congestion."

"The experts, the community, and – now – the Council agree that this Master Plan anticipates future needs in the area and protects the many neighborhoods that make up the region," said Council President Steve Silverman.

The final vote in the Council was 7 to 2, with Councilmembers Denis, Silverman, Blair Ewing, Phil Andrews, Nancy Dacek, Isiah Leggett, and Derick Berlage in favor and Councilmembers Marilyn Praisner and Michael Subin opposed.

Among the highlights in the Master Plan:

- Preserves Potomac's two-lane road policy, enhancing the region's semi-rural ambience. (more...)

N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E

page two

- Preserves Potomac's role as a low-density buffer around the Potomac River, a critical water supply resource for the County and the region
- Preserves more than 200 acres of critical environmental importance as parkland.
- Clarifies that Special Exceptions requirements in Potomac be the same as requirements in the rest of the County
- Reserves three vacant public school sites to be used for parkland, recreation, or for affordable housing and requires further exploration of additional potential affordable housing sites throughout the Potomac sub-region
- Opposes the so-called Techway bridge and connecting highway, which would require either cut through the County's Agricultural Reserve or destroy hundreds of homes in already established neighborhoods, adversely affecting thousands of families
- Establishes a clear "sewer envelope" to prevent the extension of sewer where inappropriate and clarifies sewer policies for the planning area
- Rezones the Cabin John Center to provide opportunities for a mix of retail and housing
- Amends the 1980 Master Plan for Fortune Parc in order to create a mixed-use development
- Proposes alternative uses for two of Potomac's stone quarries as their reserves become exhausted
- Recommends acquisition of sites for the North Potomac Community Center, fire station, and a regional services center satellite office
- Recommends expansion of the Scotland community center